



CITIZEN REGISTER

... a newsletter from the Consular Section for American citizens and wardens

FOUR EASY STEPS TO CASTING YOUR VOTE OVERSEAS

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91002 Jerusalem
Phone: 2-622-7200

American Citizen Services
jerusalemcs@state.gov
Fax: 2-627-2233

Visa
Fax: 2-628-5455
For Immigrant Visa inquiries:
jerusalemIV@state.gov

For Nonimmigrant Visa Inquiries:
Jerusalemvisa@state.gov

Emergencies

If you need emergency assistance after hours please call:
Tel. (2) 622-7250

Note: This number is reserved for critical emergencies only. Routine ACS or Visa inquiries should be made during normal consular business hours to Tel. (2) 622-7200, Monday—Friday 8:00 AM—4:30 PM.

If you wish to unsubscribe from this newsletter, please email jerusalemcs@state.gov. You will still receive warden notices if you unsubscribe from the newsletter.

The general elections in the U.S. will be held November 2, 2004, and have generated a great deal of interest among Americans living overseas. **Now** is the time for Americans living in Jerusalem and the West Bank to register to vote and to request absentee ballots.

Under federal law, the states are required to allow U.S. citizens residing outside the U.S. to register and vote by absentee ballot in elections for federal offices. The American Citizens Services Section in Jerusalem is ready to assist American citizens in exercising this valuable right. Each vote can make a difference, as the struggle in 2000 over the crucial electoral votes in Florida illustrated, and absentee votes count just as much as those cast in the U.S. Most commentators believe this fall's presidential election will again be tight. In addition, voters will select 1/3 of the members of the U.S. Senate this year, and the Republicans and Democrats are fighting hard in those contests because control of the Senate is at stake.

To make your voice heard requires that

you be registered to vote in your state of residence, and that you timely submit an absentee ballot. The basic steps in the absentee voting process are as follows:

1. Fill out the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) to register to vote, and/or to request an absentee

ballot: This form, which is accepted by all the states, is available on-line from the Federal Voting Assistance Program (www.fvap.gov); paper copies of the form are also available from the American Consulate General locations on both Nablus Road and Agron Road. A few states require that this application be signed in front of a notary. Information about the notary requirement can be obtained from the FVAP website, or from ACS. If required by your state, ACS will notarize the application at no cost to you.

2. Mail the Federal Post Card Application to the election board in your county of residence in the United States: ACS has a Voting Assistance Guide which includes the addresses of election boards for all counties in the



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Elections: Main US Parties

Democrats Abroad
430 South Capitol Street, S.E.
Washington, DC 20003
Phone: (202) 863-8103
Fax: (202) 863-8063
World Wide Web: www.democratsabroad.org
Email: info@democratsabroad.org

Republicans Abroad International
209 Pennsylvania Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20003
Phone: (202) 608-1423
Fax: (202) 608-1431

World Wide Web: www.republicansabroad.org
or www.republicansabroad.com
Email: mail@republicansabroad.org



Visa Section Public Hours

Nonimmigrant (Visitor) Visas
Monday – Friday: 12:30 – 2:30 p.m.
Appointment required

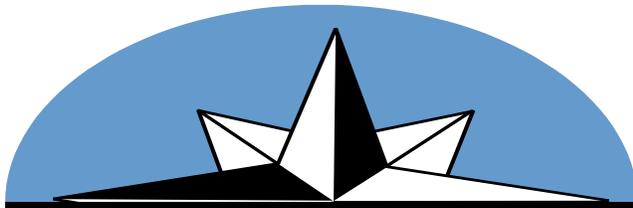
Immigrant Visas
Monday – Friday: 8:30 – 11:30 a.m.
By appointment only

Immigrant Visa Petitions
Tuesday: 8:30 – 11:30 a.m.
No appointment necessary

The Visa Section is closed on the last Friday of each month as well as on U.S. and local holidays.

We suggest making an appointment for visa interviews well in advance of your travel departure to allow for any possible delays.

Reminder: Strollers are not permitted inside the Consulate, and it is not possible to leave them outside unattended.



ACS Section Public Hours

Monday – Friday: 8:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Closed: Last Friday of the month and on U.S. and local holidays.

Hint: Consider avoiding Monday and the first day after a holiday since these days are usually our busiest.

Reminder: Strollers are not permitted inside the Consulate, and it is not possible to leave them outside unattended.

Federal Voting Assistance

For election-related materials, citizens in the U.S., Canada, Guam, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands may use one of the following fax numbers:

(703) 693-5527, (800) 368-8683 or DSN 223-5527.

See the Voting Assistance Guide or FVAP's website, www.fvap.gov, for international toll free fax numbers.

Director, Federal Voting Assistance Program
Department of Defense
1155 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1155

FVAP website: www.fvap.gov
Email: vote@fvap.ncr.gov
Fax: (703) 588-0108

The international toll free number for calls from Israel is 1-800-920-3230.

American Citizen Services Top Ten Tips

1) Get the forms before you come!

Forms can be downloaded from the Internet, or picked up at our front desk, or at many travel agencies. The four most commonly needed forms are:

- DS-11 Passport Application;
- DS-82 Passport Renewal (only for applicants over 26)
- DS-2029 Report of Birth
- SS-5 Social Security Card application.

2) Review our website thoroughly!

The forms are complicated because frequently the requirements are complicated. You can save yourself time and complications by carefully reviewing the requirements before you come. The Consulate's website can be found at this Internet address:

<http://jerusalem.usconsulate.gov>

and the link for the ACS section is:

http://jerusalem.usconsulate.gov/jerusalem/citizen_services.html

3) Fill out the forms completely!

The forms for passports, reports of birth, and Social Security have lots of sections and are time consuming. If your forms are not filled in at the time your number is called, you will be sent away to complete them. ACS staff cannot assist you in filling in your forms. If you don't fill them out before you come, fill them out while you are waiting in the building. Sample forms for guidance can be found on the walls of the ACS section. Its also a good idea to bring your own pen.

4) Bring the right photos!

The Consulate enforces U.S. passport photo requirements. Please note that A) Israeli passport photos are not the same as US passport photos and B) Headcoverings are not permitted unless worn for religious reasons. In all passport photos, the facial features from the bottom of the chin to the top of the forehead and both edges of the face must be clearly shown.

5) Bring the kitchen sink!

We are required by law to ask for many supporting documents, such as parental consent, identification, old passports, certificates of birth, marriage, death, etc. It is much easier to

bring these documents with you, even if you don't end up needing them, than having to go home and get them.

6) Bring your kids!

The Department of State has recently changed its rules to require the presence of children when their parents apply for passports on their behalf. This applies to ALL children, even infants. Children 14 and above must also appear in person to apply on their own behalf.

7) Don't bring a stroller!

Our security personnel are very strict and will not allow them into the building. Unfortunately, you also cannot leave them outside of the building, and we do not have stroller parking. Thus, the better bet is to leave it at home.

8) Come early!

The earlier you arrive, the earlier you leave. Especially during our summer travel season, people who come later end up waiting a disproportionately long time. The Consulate is open from 8:30-11:30, Monday through Friday, with the exception of US and local holidays and the last Friday of each month.

9) Don't come at all!

Adults who have had at least one 10-year validity passport are eligible to renew their passport by mail and need not come to the Consulate. Instructions can be found on our website.

10) Be patient!

Even if you do arrive early, the Consulate in Jerusalem has severe staffing and building constraints that limit our ability to process large numbers of applicants quickly. We do our absolute best to get our clientele in and out as fast as possible, but it is wise to be prepared to spend 1-3 hours at the Consulate, depending on the nature of your business.

WORLDWIDE CAUTION

September 10, 2004

ACS Warden Message

This Public Announcement is being updated to remind U.S. citizens of the continuing threat of terrorist actions and anti-American violence against U.S. citizens and interests overseas. This supersedes the Worldwide Caution dated April 29, 2004 and expires on March 10, 2005.

The Department of State is deeply concerned about the continued threat of terrorist attacks against U.S. citizens and interests abroad, as well as the potential for demonstrations and violent actions against U.S. citizens and interests overseas. U.S. citizens are reminded that demonstrations and rioting can occur at any time. In reaction to the execution of hostages in Iraq, there have been demonstrations and associated violence in the hostages' country of origin. While Americans are generally not the targets in such incidents, U.S. citizens could be caught up in the violence. U.S. citizens are reminded to maintain a high level of vigilance and to take appropriate steps to increase their security awareness.

The Department of State remains concerned by indications that al-Qaida and affiliated groups continue to prepare to strike U.S. interests abroad. Al-Qaida and its associated organizations have struck in Europe, Asia and the Middle East. Future al-Qaida attacks could possibly involve non-conventional weapons such as chemical or biological agents as well as conventional weapons of terror, to include explosive devices.

Terrorist actions may include, but are not limited to, suicide operations, assassinations, hijackings, bombings or kidnappings. These may involve aviation and other transportation and maritime interests. Terrorists do not distinguish between official and civilian targets. These may include facilities where U.S. citizens and other foreigners congregate or visit, including residential areas, business offices, clubs, restaurants, places of worship, schools, hotels and public areas. U.S. citizens are encouraged to maintain a high level of vigilance and to take appropriate steps to increase their security awareness.

U.S. Government facilities worldwide remain at a heightened state of alert. These facilities may temporarily close or suspend public services from time to time to assess their security posture. In those instances, U.S. embassies and consulates will make every effort to provide emergency services to U.S. citizens. Americans abroad are urged to monitor the local news and maintain contact with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

As the Department continues to develop information on any potential security threats to U.S. citizens overseas, it shares credible threat information through its consular information program documents, available on the Internet at <http://travel.state.gov>. In addition to information on the Internet, travelers may obtain up-to-date information on security conditions by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the U.S. or outside the U.S. and Canada on a regular toll line at 1-317-472-2328.

Middle East and North Africa Update

August 21, 2004

ACS Warden Message

This Public Announcement is being updated to alert Americans to ongoing security concerns in the region. U.S. citizens are reminded to maintain a high level of vigilance and to take appropriate steps to increase their security awareness. This Public Announcement supersedes the Public Announcement issued on June 18, 2004, and expires on February 18, 2005.

The August 20, 2004 U.S. indictment of key Hamas figures may be used as an excuse to target American citizens or American interests throughout the region. In addition, the Department of State continues to warn of the possibility for demonstrations and violent actions against U.S. citizens and interests in the region. Anti-American violence could include possible terrorist actions against aviation, ground transportation and maritime interests, specifically in the Middle East, including the Red Sea, Persian Gulf, the Arabian Peninsula and North Africa.

The Department is concerned that extremists may be planning to carry out attacks against Westerners and oil workers in the Gulf region. Recent armed attacks targeting foreign nationals in Saudi Arabia that resulted in many deaths and injuries, including U.S. citizens, appear to have been preceded by extensive surveillance. Extremists may be surveilling Westerners, particularly at hotels and those using rental cars. U.S. contractors may be some of the potential targets.

Credible information has indicated terrorist groups seek to continue attacks against U.S. interests in the Middle East. Terrorist actions may include additional suicide operations, bombings, hijackings, kidnappings and targeted attacks resulting in death. While conventional weapons such as explosive devices are a more immediate threat in many areas, use of non-conventional weapons, including chemical or biological agents must be considered a possible threat. Terrorists do not distinguish between official and civilian targets. Increased security at official U.S. facilities has led terrorists and their sympathizers to seek softer targets such as public transportation, residential areas, and public areas where people congregate.

On occasion, the travel of official personnel at embassies and consulates around the world is restricted because of security concerns, and these posts may recommend that private U.S. citizens avoid the same areas if at all possible. Services to U.S. citizens in countries abroad may be affected if employees' movements are restricted. If this happens, U.S. embassies and consulates will make every effort to provide emergency services to U.S. citizens. In case office hours are reduced, U.S. citizens in need of emergency assistance should telephone the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate before visiting in person.

In addition, U.S. citizens planning to travel to the Middle East or North Africa should consult the Department of State's country-specific Public Announcements, Travel Warnings, Consular Information Sheets, the Worldwide Caution Public Announcement and other information, Fact Sheets, and regional travel brochures available on the Consular Affairs Internet website at <http://travel.state.gov>. Up-to-date information on security conditions can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 in the U.S. and for callers outside the U.S. and Canada a regular toll line at 1-317-472-2328.

Israel, the West Bank and Gaza - Travel Warning August 3, 2004

This Travel Warning is being updated in light of the kidnapping of a U.S. Citizen by unknown gunmen in the West Bank. Militants associated with al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades have recently kidnapped foreigners in both the West Bank and Gaza. Additionally, in the aftermath of the killings of two HAMAS leaders by Israel in less than a month, statements have been made by some HAMAS elements and other terrorist groups threatening revenge against U.S. interests. The Department of State continues to urge all U.S. citizens to depart Gaza immediately, and to warn U.S. citizens to defer travel to Israel, the West Bank and Gaza due to current safety and security concerns. This Travel Warning supersedes the Travel Warning issued April 28, 2004.

The Department of State warns U.S. citizens to depart Gaza immediately and to defer travel to Israel, the West Bank and Gaza due to current safety and security concerns. Militants associated with al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades have recently carried out kidnappings targeted at foreigners, including U.S. citizens, in the West Bank and Gaza. Statements have been made by some HAMAS elements and other terrorist groups threatening revenge against U.S. interests following the killing of HAMAS leaders in Gaza. These actions could include kidnappings, although we have no information that these threats will be carried out at this time. HAMAS has also vowed revenge against Israel. Ongoing violence over the last three years has caused numerous civilian deaths and injuries, including to some American tourists, students and residents, as well as to U.S. Mission personnel. The potential for further terrorist acts remains high. The situation in Israel, Jerusalem, Gaza and the West Bank remains extremely volatile with continuing terrorist attacks, confrontations and clashes. The Department of State recommended all U.S. citizens depart Gaza following the lethal terrorist attack on U.S. Mission personnel in Gaza on October 15, 2003. In addition, as the Israeli Defense Force continues to conduct extensive military operations, especially in Gaza, the possibility that innocent bystanders might become victims remains high.

American citizens who remain in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza despite this and earlier warnings are urged to continue to review their personal security situations and to take those actions they deem appropriate to ensure their well-being. Private Americans are encouraged to follow the precautions detailed below and remain in close communication with the American Embassy in Tel Aviv and the American Consulate General in Jerusalem for more detailed information. American citizens residing in the West Bank and Jerusalem should consider relocating to a safe location.

American citizens should avoid, to the extent possible, public places such as restaurants and cafes, shopping and market areas and malls, pedestrian zones, public buses and bus stops, and other crowded venues and the areas around them. Americans should also avoid demonstrations. Roads designed for Israeli settlers, including in East Jerusalem, have been the sites of frequent shooting attacks and roadside explosives, sometimes resulting in death or injury. U.S. Embassy and Consulate employees and their families have been prohibited from using public buses throughout Israel, the Jerusalem municipality, the West Bank and Gaza.

U.S. Government personnel in Israel, Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza are under tight security controls, including prohibition of non-official travel to the West Bank and Gaza. Official travel to the West Bank and Gaza is conducted only for specific mission needs, and under the auspices of U.S. Government security personnel. Occasionally, U.S. Government personnel are prohibited from traveling to sections of Jerusalem and parts of Israel, depending on prevailing security conditions.

As a result of ongoing military activity in the West Bank and Gaza, sections of those areas have been declared closed military zones. The Government of Israel may deny entry at Ben Gurion Airport or at a land border to persons it believes might travel to "closed" areas in the West Bank or Gaza or to persons the Israeli authorities believe may sympathize with the Palestinian cause and are seeking to meet with Palestinian officials. Closed areas in the West Bank and Gaza have been subject to intense shelling and firing. In some instances, Americans have been wounded and their property damaged. Major cities in the West Bank are often placed under Israeli military curfew. All persons in areas under curfew should remain indoors or risk arrest or injury. Americans have been killed, seriously injured, detained, and deported as a result of encounters with Israeli Defense Forces operations in Gaza and the West Bank. Israeli authorities may impose travel restrictions with little or no warning and travelers run the risk of finding themselves stranded as a result. Due to the closures and fighting, provision of medical and humanitarian care has been severely delayed in those areas.

In addition, dual Palestinian-American citizens may encounter difficulties, or be barred from, entering and/or departing Israel, the West Bank and Gaza, especially during times of Israeli closures. Americans who hold Palestinian ID numbers should consult the Embassy or Consulate for the most recent information before attempting to cross relevant borders. These restrictions can change frequently and without any advance notice. During times when the closures and curfews are lifted, in order to depart Israel via Ben Gurion Airport, Palestinian-Americans must apply for an Israeli transit permit. Except in humanitarian or special interest cases, Israeli authorities are unlikely to issue this permit. In this event, and notwithstanding the restrictions mentioned above, travelers must depart via land crossings and may experience lengthy delays. All travelers who enter or travel in Gaza or the West Bank should expect delays and difficulties at Israeli military checkpoints located throughout those areas, and should exercise particular care when approaching and traveling through checkpoints. Travelers should also be aware they might not be allowed passage through the checkpoints.

From time to time, the Embassy and Consulate General may temporarily suspend public services to review their security posture. Due to current limitations on official travel by U.S. Government employees to the West Bank and Gaza made necessary by the unrest and uncertain conditions, the ability of consular staff to offer timely assistance to U.S. citizens in need in these areas is considerably reduced at present. U.S. citizens who require emergency services may telephone the Consulate General in Jerusalem at (972) (2) 622-7230 or the Embassy in Tel Aviv at (972) (3) 519-7551.

Four Easy Steps To Voting

(Continued from Page 1)

U.S.; this information is also available from the FVAP website. Note that postage is not required if the post card application is sent through the U.S. postal system, which includes the APO post office we use in Jerusalem. ACS Jerusalem will accept post card applications at its Nablus Road office from American citizens not affiliated with the consulate

3. and mail the applications through the APO. However, Amcits who do not receive mail through the APO must provide a local address on their application for receiving their absentee ballots.

As an alternative to the mail, many states now allow overseas voters to send the FPCA by fax. Contact ACS for further information, or go to the FVAP website and select [State by State Instructions](#).

Voters who are not presently registered to vote should request ballots at least 60 days before the election; voters who are registered should request ballots at least 45 days before the election (note: the date of this year's general election is November 2).

3. Your local election board sends you an absentee ballot: Each of the U.S. states and territories establishes its own procedures for voter registration. Once your local election board determines that you are properly registered and eligible to vote, an absentee ballot will be sent to you 30-45 days before the date of the election.

4. You complete the absentee ballot and mail it prior to the ballot receipt deadline set by your state: If you have requested a ballot but have not received the ballot in time to vote, you can still vote by using a Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot, which is available from ACS. Please note that it is the voter's responsibility to follow procedures and to meet deadlines, and failing to do so will result in your ballot not being counted.

Contact information for voting questions:

-American Citizen Services Section, Jerusalem

The Section will have expanded hours to facilitate witness/notary of ballots as well as for mailing them. The additional hours will be 2:30 to 4:30, each weekday between October 18 and November 1.

Phone: (02) 622-7200; e-mail: jerusalemacs@state.gov

-Federal Voting Assistance Program

Website: www.fvap.gov; phone (toll-free) 1-800-438-VOTE; e-mail: vote@fvap.ncr.gov

GENERAL INFORMATION AND FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can I vote absentee?

Generally, all U.S. citizens 18 years or older who are or will be residing outside the United States during an election period are eligible to vote absentee in any election for Federal office. In addition, all members of the Uniformed Services, their family members and members of the Merchant Marine and their family members, who are U.S. citizens, may vote absentee in Federal, state and local elections.

How do I apply for an absentee ballot?

Use the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA). The FPCA is accepted by all states and territories as an application for registration and for absentee ballot. It is postage-free when placed in the U.S. mail. You may also send a written request for a ballot to your county, city, town or parish clerk. The on-line version of the FPCA (OFPCA) is available at the Federal Voting Assistance Program's (FVAP) website, www.fvap.gov, but must be completed, printed out, signed, dated and placed in an envelope affixed with proper postage, and mailed to your Local Election Official. All States and Territories except American Samoa and Guam accept the OFPCA.

I would like to vote but don't know how. Where can I find assistance?

Specific information on applying for absentee registration and a ballot is contained in the Voting Assistance Guide. Voting Assistance Officers at each U.S. embassy or consulate have a copy of the Guide to assist you in completing your FPCA. U.S. citizen organizations overseas and many corporate offices of U.S. companies also have copies of the Guide to assist you. U.S. embassy/consulate personnel may request hard copies of the Guide through their normal distribution channels or by contacting their Service or Department of State Voting Action Officer. Other overseas citizens may request these materials by contacting the FVAP directly at vote@fvap.ncr.gov. You

will also find PDF versions of the Guide as well as other voting related information and links on the FVAP website, www.fvap.gov.

Do I have to be registered to vote absentee?

Registration requirements vary from state to state. States and territories allow the citizen to register and request an absentee ballot by submitting a single FPCA during the election year. If you are permanently registered you should submit an FPCA early in the election year. Consult Chapter 3 of the Voting Assistance Guide for specifics.

Where do I send my FPCA?

Chapter 3 of the Guide outlines absentee voting procedures for each state and territory. In section III under the heading of "Where to Send It" you will find a list of addresses for county and local election officials for your state or territory of legal voting residence. These officials may need to contact you for further information, please provide a current email address, phone and fax number on the FPCA.

Must I submit a separate application for each election?

In all states and territories, one FPCA will secure for the applicant both primary and general election ballots for Federal offices for an entire calendar year. The Help America Vote Act of October 2002 has extended the effective period of the FPCA through two regularly scheduled general elections for federal office. However, due to the transient nature of many citizens covered by the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA), FVAP continues to recommend that each citizen submit an FPCA to their state of legal residence in January of each year and again each time there is a change in the citizens mailing address.

If I am required to have my FPCA or ballot notarized, how do I do it?

Generally, election materials may be witnessed or sworn to before a notary, U.S. Commissioned Officer, embassy or consular officer, or other officials authorized to administer oaths. Most states and territories do not require notarization of the FPCA or ballot; therefore, consult Chapter 3 of the Guide to determine your state or territory's requirements. In all instances you must sign and date the FPCA.

When mailing an FPCA or other election materials to my state or territory, do I have to pay postage?

Generally, all election-related materials are mailed postage-free from any APO or FPO mail facility, all U.S. embassies and consulates and any post office in the U.S. You must pay postage if the materials are mailed from a non-U.S. postal facility. The on-line version of the FPCA must be printed out, signed, dated and mailed in an envelope with proper postage affixed. Ensure that your ballot or FPCA is postmarked.

When is the best time to apply for an absentee ballot?

Generally, the FPCA used to request only a ballot should be received by election officials at least forty-five days before election day to allow ample time to process the request and mail the ballot. If applying for both registration and an absentee ballot, the FPCA may have to be mailed earlier. FVAP recommends submitting the FPCA in January of each year. Consult Chapter 3 of the Guide for further information on state or territorial registration deadlines. Be sure to notify your election official of any change to your address.

When should I receive my ballot?

Under normal circumstances, most states and territories begin mailing ballots to citizens 30-45 days before an election. If you have not received your ballot two weeks before the election, contact the Federal Voting Assistance Program's (FVAP) Ombudsman Service. They will assist you in determining when your ballot was mailed. Always execute and return your absentee ballot regardless of when you receive it. Court decisions sometimes require the counting of ballots voted by election day, but received late. See the Ombudsman Service and Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot sections below.

What is an election for Federal office?

An election for Federal office is any general, special, runoff or primary election held solely or in part for the purpose of selecting, nominating, or electing any candidate for the office of President, Vice President, Presidential elector, Member of the United States Senate, Member of the United States House of Representatives, Delegates from the District of Columbia, Guam, Virgin Islands, and American Samoa, and Resident Commissioner of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

What is the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) for overseas citizens?

Overseas citizens may be able to use a Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) available through Voting Assistance Officers at U.S. embassies/consulates. To be eligible for this ballot, a citizen must:

1. Be located overseas (including APO/FPO addresses).
2. Apply for a regular ballot early enough so that the request is received by the local election official at least 30 days before the election.
3. Not have received the requested regular absentee ballot.

In summary, the FWAB is only valid from outside the United States when a regular ballot from the state or territory has already been requested in a timely manner and has not been received. Return the voted FWAB to the local election official to meet the state

or territory deadline for counting. Presently, eleven states have expanded the use of the FWAB: Colorado, Connecticut, Iowa, Maryland, Montana, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia. Refer to Chapter 3 of the Guide for details.

Where can I find information on state and local issues while overseas?

Surf the Web for information! Alternatively, subscribe to hometown newspapers, or contact friends and relatives for information on state and local issues. Armed Forces Radio and Television Service broadcasts American news and entertainment programs throughout the world. Also, the Department of Defense Voting Information Center (VIC) provides an avenue for information on candidates for citizens voting under the UOCAVA. See the VIC section below.

If I do not maintain a legal residence in the U.S., what is my "legal state of residence?"

Your "legal state of residence" for voting purposes is the state or territory where you last resided immediately prior to your departure from the United States. This right extends to overseas citizens even though they may not have property or other ties in their last state or territory of residence and their intent to return to that state or territory may be uncertain. When completing the residence section of the FPCA, be sure to enter the entire mailing address of your last residence, including street or rural route and number. This information is necessary to place you in the proper voting district, ward, precinct or parish. Family members of citizens residing overseas, who are U.S. citizens and who have never resided in the U.S., usually, if the state allows, claim one of their U.S. citizen parent's legal state or territory of residence as their own. Check Chapter 3 of the Guide.

Will I be taxed by my last state or territory of residence if I vote absentee?

Exercising your right to vote in elections for Federal offices only, does not affect the determination of residence or domicile for purposes of any tax imposed under Federal, state, or local law. Voting in an election for Federal office only, may not be used as the sole basis to determine residency for the purpose of imposing state and local taxes. If you claim a particular state or territory as your residence and have other ties with that state or territory in addition to voting, then you may be liable for state and local taxation, depending upon the laws of that particular state or territory. Consult the Guide or a legal advisor for information on probable tax obligations.

Can I register or vote in person at the embassy or consulate?

At the present time, there are no provisions for in-person voting or on-site registration to be conducted at U.S. embassies or consulates. U.S. embassy and consular officials will assist U.S. citizens in completing FPCA forms for their state, witness or notarize FPCA forms and ballots (if required), and provide other absentee voting information. U.S. embassy and consulate locations serve also as a mailing point. FPCA forms and other election materials may be mailed back, postage paid, to your local voting jurisdiction in the U.S. where absentee registration and ballot requests are processed.

THE FVAP WEBSITE

The FVAP website, www.fvap.gov, is home to a variety of information about voting and elections. The information is updated regularly. Answers to almost any voting related question can be found 24 hours a day, seven days a week just by accessing the website. The website contains general information on absentee voting, including a list of frequently asked questions, and training schedules for voting assistance officers during federal election years. The on-line version of the Voting Assistance Guide contains up to date information for state-by-state registration and absentee ballot request procedures. Also, available on the website is the on-line version of the FPCA, a convenient alternative, which is accepted by all the states, the District of Columbia and all territories with the exception of Guam and American Samoa. All FVAP publications, including News Releases and archived issues of the monthly Voting Information Newsletter can be found on the site. The website also contains links to many voting related sites, including all state elections sites, which provide information about upcoming elections, and links to U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives.

OMBUDSMAN SERVICE

Citizens covered by the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act can obtain additional information about the absentee voting process by calling the FVAP toll free from many countries. The toll-free number for calls from Israel is 1-800-920-3230. Assistance is available during normal business hours, Eastern Time; you may leave a recorded message with complete contact information at other times.

ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION OF ELECTION MATERIALS

Often, transmitting voting materials by mail may delay timely receipt and return of materials. When such conditions exist, possibly preventing an individual from voting, faxing may be possible. Generally, there are three possibilities or combinations allowed by states:

1. Send the FPCA or registration and ballot request by fax.
2. Receive the blank ballot by fax.
3. Return the voted ballot by fax.

Consult your unit or embassy/consulate Voting Assistance Officer for the procedures for the electronic transmission process. The Voting Assistance Guide explains the fax process, each state's procedures and provides a fax cover sheet. Always mail the original FPCA and voted ballot after faxing.